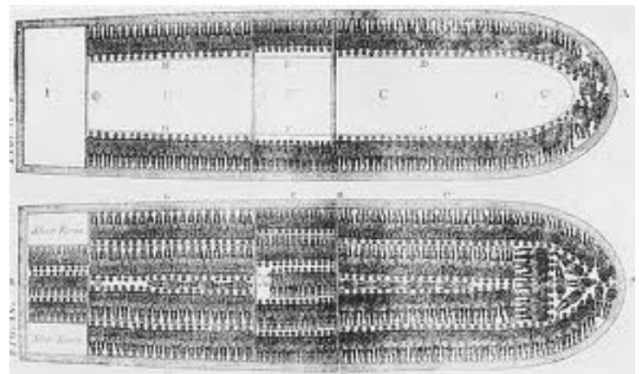




Unit 2 - Chapters 4-5



4.1 Notes

1. Frustrations of the Chesapeake region

- life in the American wilderness was harsh – diseases like malaria, dysentery, and typhoid killed many people before the age of 40
- women were scarce to the point that men fought over them
- people were also upset by the inability to acquire land, and were further angered when the VA assembly disenfranchised most of the landless in 1670

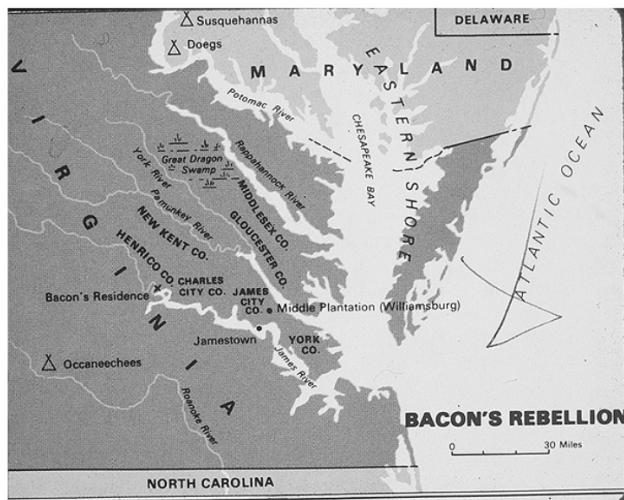


2. Tobacco economy

- Chesapeake was good for growing tobacco – about 40 million pounds per year by 1700
 - greater availability led to lower prices, but farmers grew more anyway
- VA and MD employed the “headright” system, which encouraged the importation of servant workers by granting owners the right to purchase land
- most labor was done by indentured servants
 - conditions were brutal and owners became unwilling to free their servants, choosing to extend their contracts for small mistakes

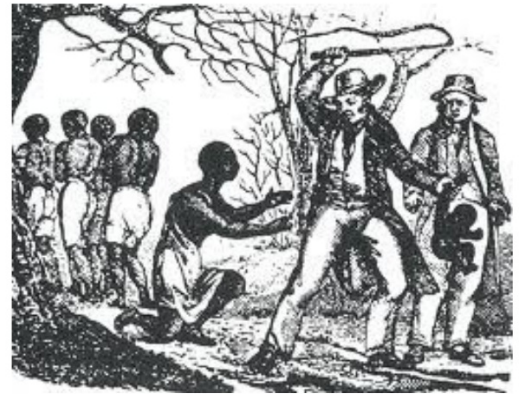
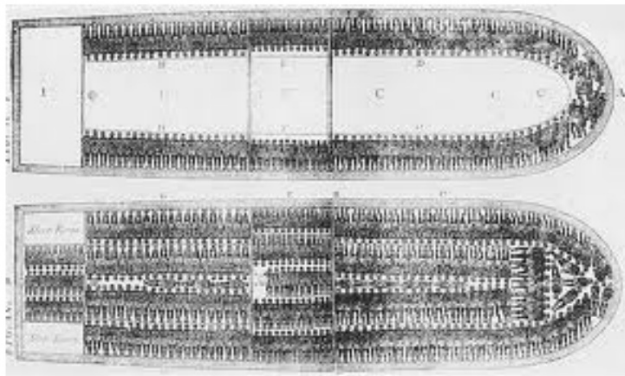
3. Bacon's Rebellion

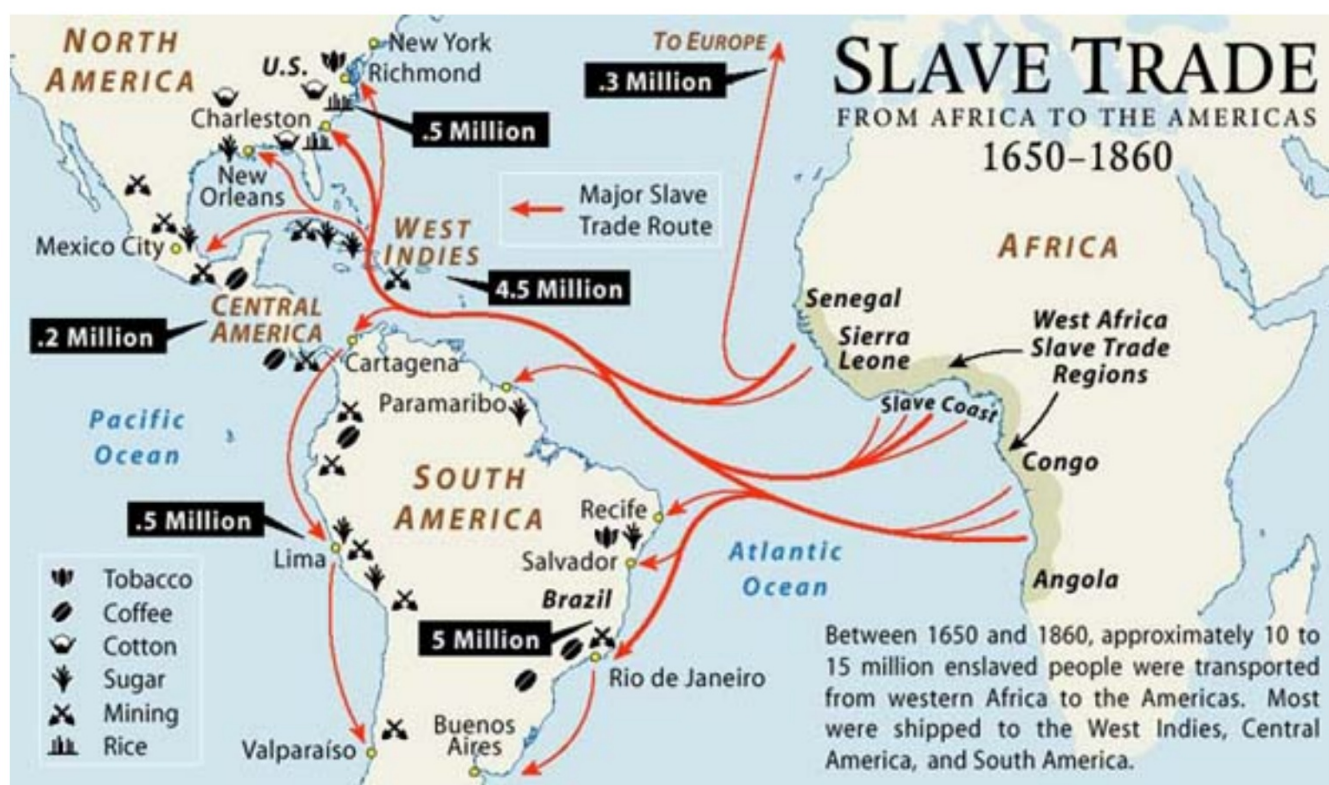
- 1676 – Nathaniel Bacon led an uprising of men who wanted land and were resentful of VA governor William Berkeley's friendly policies toward Indians
- Bacon's men attacked Indian settlements after Berkeley refused to retaliate when the Indians raided colonists on the frontier
- Bacon died of disease in the middle of the rebellion and Berkeley crushed the group
- Bacon's name lived on after death to inspire poor people to fight against authority



4. Colonial slavery

- about 4% of all African slaves were brought to the future United States, the majority of whom came after 1700
- roughly 20% of slaves died on the trip to America – those who survived the trip were auctioned off in ports like Newport, RI and Charleston, SC
- slave codes dictated the conditions of slavery for Africans
 - slaves, and their children, would remain the property of their masters for life, unless they were voluntarily freed
 - some laws made teaching slaves to read a crime
 - not even Christianity could qualify a slave for freedom





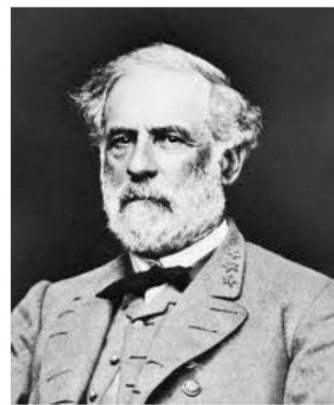
5. Africans in America

- slave life in the deep South was very tough – rice growing was much more difficult than tobacco farming
- many slaves made contributions to American culture in the areas of food, music, dance, and language
- a few slaves became skilled artisans (carpenters), but most did difficult work
- slave revolts in New York and South Carolina only made treatment of slaves harsher
- slaves proved to be a more manageable labor force than white indentured servants

4.2 Notes

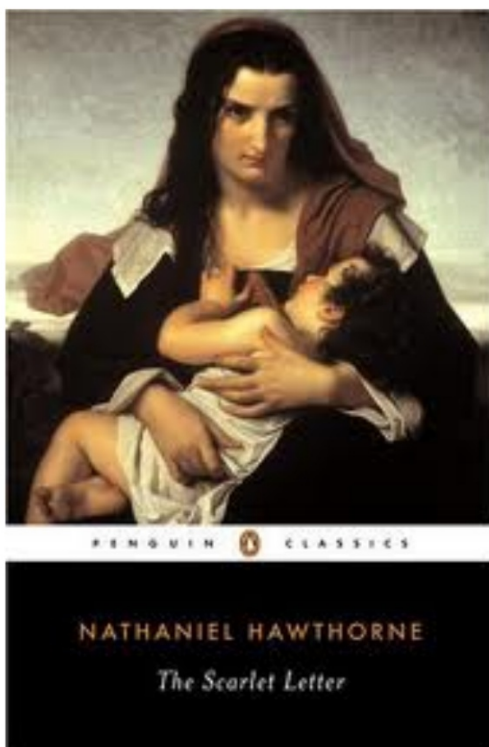
1. Southern society

- social gap appeared and widened quickly – the First Families of Virginia (FFV), the Fitzhughs, Lees, and Washingtons, owned large amounts of land and dominated the House of Burgesses
- the largest social group was the farmers – few cities existed in the South, so schools and churches were slow to develop
- women developed SOME power, as men often died young, leaving inheritance

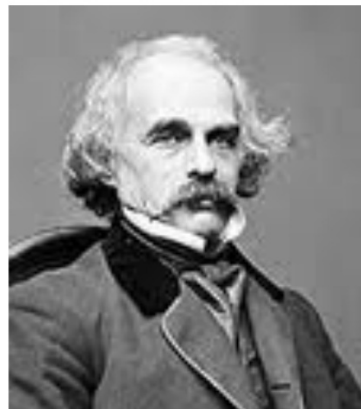


2. New England family

- New England had clean water and cool temperatures, which caused disease to be less of a problem than in the South
- New England Puritans had a life expectancy of about 70 years (78.1 years today)
- family life was much different
 - women married in their early twenties and gave birth about every two years – they could expect 10 pregnancies and raise 8 children
 - healthcare had advanced; death in labor for women was rare
 - men held MOST power over women
- law was severe and strict – Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter"

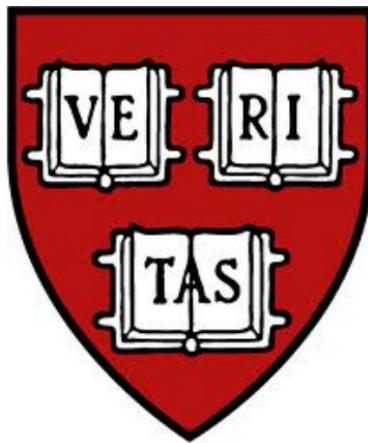


Set in 17th-century Puritan Boston during the years 1642 to 1649, Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" tells the story of Hester Prynne, who conceives a daughter through an adulterous affair and struggles to create a new life of repentance and dignity. Throughout the book, Hawthorne explores themes of legalism, sin, and guilt.



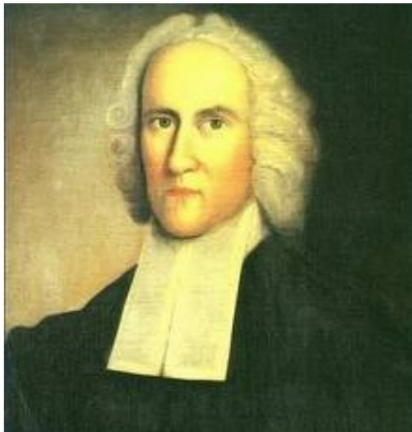
3. Life in New England towns

- very organized, with legal charters, a meetinghouse, public parks, and schools
- 1636 – MA Puritans established Harvard to train ministers
- Puritans ran their own churches – democracy in church gov't led to democracy in local gov'ts as well



4. Religion in New England

- Puritans worried that their children would not be loyal and faithful – created sermons called jeremiads in which preachers scolded the parishioners about their fading devotion
- ministers also created the Half-Way Covenant in 1662 to increase participation
 - offered partial membership rights to people not yet converted



Preacher Jonathan Edwards

4. Religion in New England

-1692 – Salem Witch Trials took place in MA – legal lynching of 20 women

- most of the “witches” were from wealthy merchant families, while the accusers came from poorer families
- trials showed the class division in the colony, where people found scapegoats for social resentment
- “witches” were pardoned 20 years later, with reparations made to families



5. New England way of life

- work was through fishing and trade, as the soil and climate weren't good for farming – slavery was attempted, but did not work
- Europeans criticized Indians for wasting the land, and felt a need to clear as much of it as possible

6. Early settlers' days and ways

- farmers rose at dawn and went to bed at dusk – few activities were done at night b/c people didn't want to waste candles
- the settlers were generally lower middle class citizens who hoped to find a better life in the New World – people from wealth had no reason to leave Europe

5.1 Notes

1. Colonies in 1775

- GB ruled 32 colonies in North America
 - only 13 revolted, none of them richer than Canada or Jamaica
- colonies were growing quickly – population was about 2.5 million
- most people lived east of the Allegheny Mountains, but some had moved to KY and TN – 90% of people lived in rural areas
- besides the English, groups included Germans, Scots-Irish, French Huguenots, Welsh, Dutch, Swedes, Jews, Irish, Swiss, and Scottish Highlanders
- diversity led to Americans being of all races and mixed bloods, making them hard to classify for other countries



2. Structure of colonial society

- America was a land of opportunity – anyone willing to work could find success
- wars in the late 17th and early 18th centuries allowed merchants to grow extremely wealthy, while also creating a widow / orphan class
- vast majority of population owned and worked on small farms
- near the bottom of the social structure were beggars and criminals
England sent to America – they were only above slaves

3. Professionals in colonial society

- the clergy was the most honored profession of colonial times
- doctors were not highly respected, mainly because so many were so bad
- lawyers were least respected among professional trades, but, by 1750, were recognized as useful and played a major role in the revolution

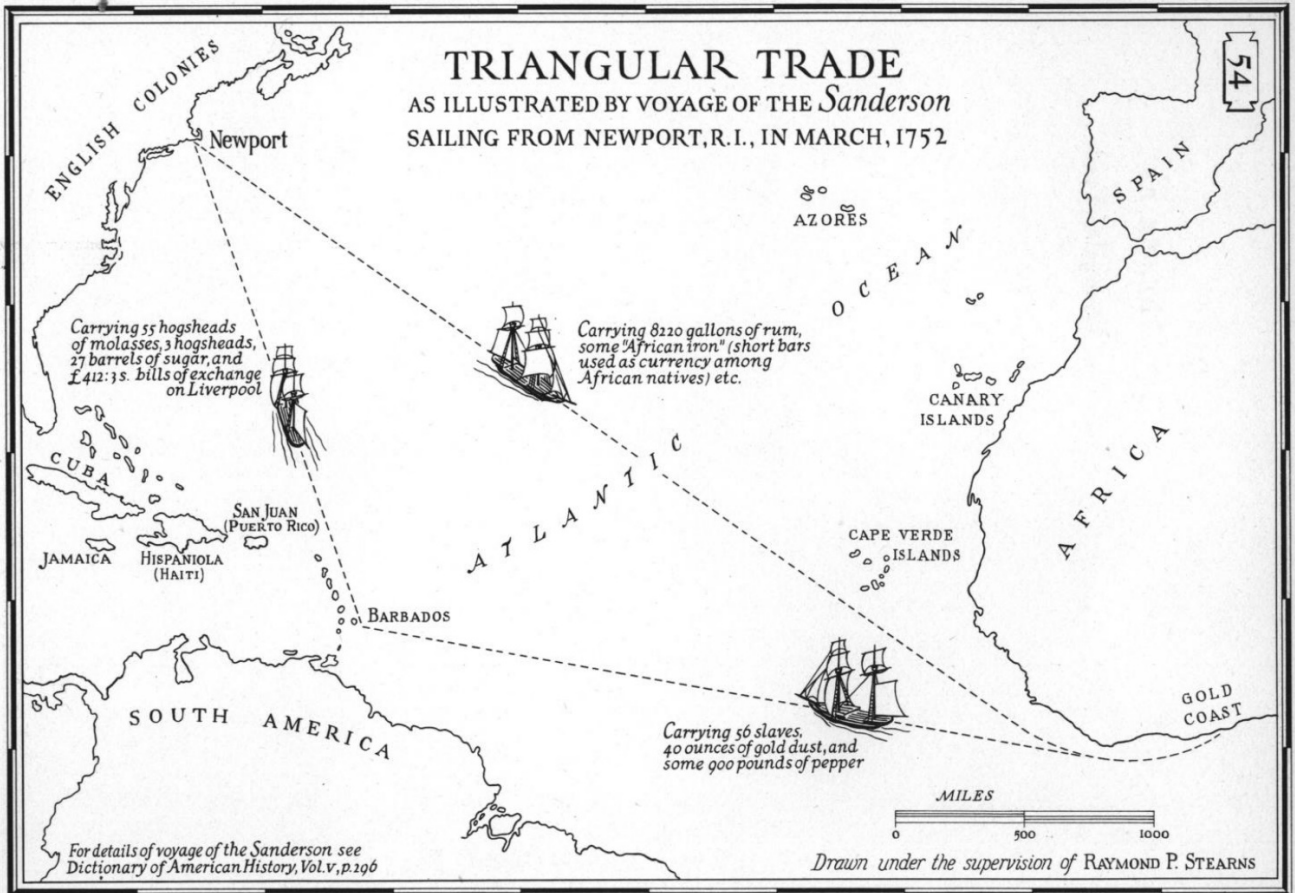


4. Workaday America

- agriculture was by far the leading industry – MD and VA – tobacco;
NY – flour
- fishing was also rewarding, especially in New England
- commerce was established in all colonies
 - America built its own triangular trade with Africa (NE – rum,
Africa – slaves, Caribbean – molasses)
 - Britain passed the Molasses Act to restrict trade with the French
West Indies – colonists simply moved on to smuggling
- little manufacturing took place – greatest amount was in lumbering
 - most large trees were used for the British navy

TRIANGULAR TRADE

AS ILLUSTRATED BY VOYAGE OF THE *Sanderson*
SAILING FROM NEWPORT, R.I., IN MARCH, 1752



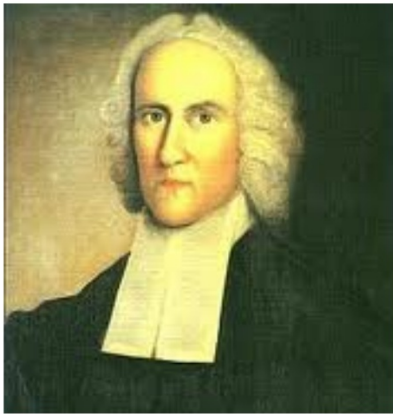
5. Dominant denominations

- Anglican (Church of England) and Congregational (Puritan) churches were tax-supported by 1775, but the majority of people didn't worship in churches
- Congregational Church was strong in New England, except for RI – group was very strict and had concerns about people's devotion
 - founded Harvard to train clergy in 1636
- Anglican Church was strong in GA, Carolinas, VA, MD, and NY – less strict
 - founded the College of William and Mary in 1693 to train clergy

5.2 Notes

1. Great Awakening

- revival caused by a lack of religious fervor and fear that people would not be saved
- led by Jonathan Edwards, a preacher who used fiery sermons to spark emotion
 - spoke about the eternal damnation that nonbelievers faced after death
- also influenced by George Whitefield, who spoke of human helplessness and divine omnipotence, while encouraging others to put abuse onto sinners
- Great Awakening was the first mass movement of Americans, who were able to see themselves as a single people with a common history and experiences



S I N N E R S

In the Hands of an

Angry GOD.

A S E R M O N

Preached at *Enfield*, July 8th 1741.

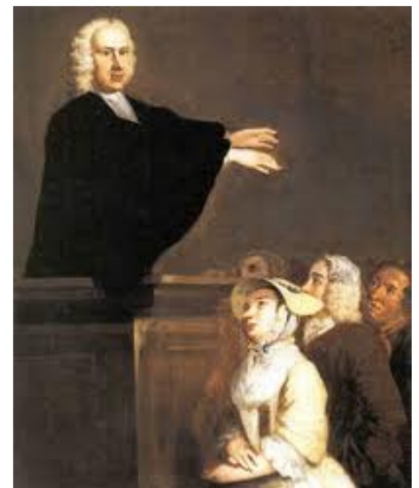
At a Time of great Awakenings; and attended with remarkable Impressions on many of the Hearers.

By *Jonathan Edwards*, A.M.

Pastor of the Church of CHRIST in *Northampton*.

Amos ix. 2, 3. *Though they dig into Hell, thence shall mine Hand take them; though they climb up to Heaven, thence will I bring them down. And though they hide themselves in the Top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my Sight in the Bottom of the Sea, thence I will command the Serpent, and he shall bite them.*

B O S T O N: Printed and Sold by S. KNEELAND and T. GREEN. in Queen-Street over against the Prison. 1741.



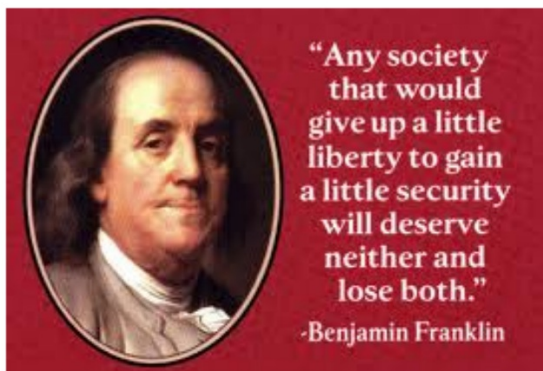
2. Views on the Great Awakening

- orthodox clergy, known as “old lights”, were deeply skeptical of the emotionalism and theatrical antics of the revivalists
- Great Awakening created “new light” ministers, who defended the movement and its role in revitalizing American religion – these people founded centers of higher learning such as Princeton, Brown, Rutgers, and Dartmouth



3. Schools and colleges

- education was generally weak throughout the colonies – most wealthy people depended on private tutors
- colonial schools and colleges focused on religion and classical languages, while discouraging independent thinking
- Benjamin Franklin took a major step in American education in helping to establish the University of Pennsylvania, the first college free of denominational control



4. Culture in the colonies

- very little free time for recreation – the little that was available was spent on religion
- people gained amusement through working on community projects, playing cards, horse racing, and stage plays
- colonial literature was undistinguished – Ben Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanack was widely read in America and Europe
- Ben Franklin's experiments and observations helped to advance science in the colonies

5. Zenger decision

- John Zenger was a noted journalist accused of seditious libel against the royal governor
- judge urged the jury to consider the fact that publishing was a crime, regardless of the content printed
- Zenger won the case, defended by Alexander Hamilton – established freedom of the press in America



6. Politics in America

- 8 colonies had royal governors, 3 had governors appointed by proprietors, and CT and RI elected their own governors under self-governing charters – most governors did a good job, while others were just corrupt
- almost every colony had a two-house legislative body – upper house was appointed by royal officials or proprietors, lower house was elected by the people
- self-taxation with representation was the privilege most enjoyed by Americans
- the right to vote was available to white landowners, but acquiring land was relatively easy for those who worked hard